

District of Columbia Public Charter Schools

FY 2002 Proposed Operating Budget	\$142,257,101
FY 2002 Proposed Capital Budget	\$0

The District of Columbia Public Charter Schools provide an alternative free education for students who reside in the District of Columbia.

The FY 2002 proposed operating budget is \$142,257,101, an increase of \$37,257,101, or 35.5 percent over the FY 2001 approved budget.

Budget Summary

The FY 2002 proposed budget for all sources for the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools (PCS) is \$142,257,101, an increase of \$37,257,101, or 35.5 percent, over the FY 2001 approved budget of \$105,000,000 (table GC0-1). In FY 2002, a total of 13,600 students are projected to enroll in charter schools. Of the total projected population, 12,428 students (91%) are projected to enroll in existing charter schools for a total of \$124,317,011 of the total allocation. The remaining 1,172 (9%) will enroll in newly established public charter schools for a total of \$10,708,799.

The increase is due primarily to a 21 percent increase in projected enrollment for charter schools from 11,203 in FY 2001 to 13,600 in FY 2002. This budget supports 33 existing charter schools, 5 newly established charter schools, and the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. It does not support any full-time equivalents (FTEs). The newly established charter schools are Thurgood Marshall Academy, Tri-Community, Sasha Bruce, Washington Public Charter School for Academic Excellence, and KIPP Academy. Federal grants for public charter schools are administered by the District of Columbia Public Schools and the State Education Office.

Strategic Issues

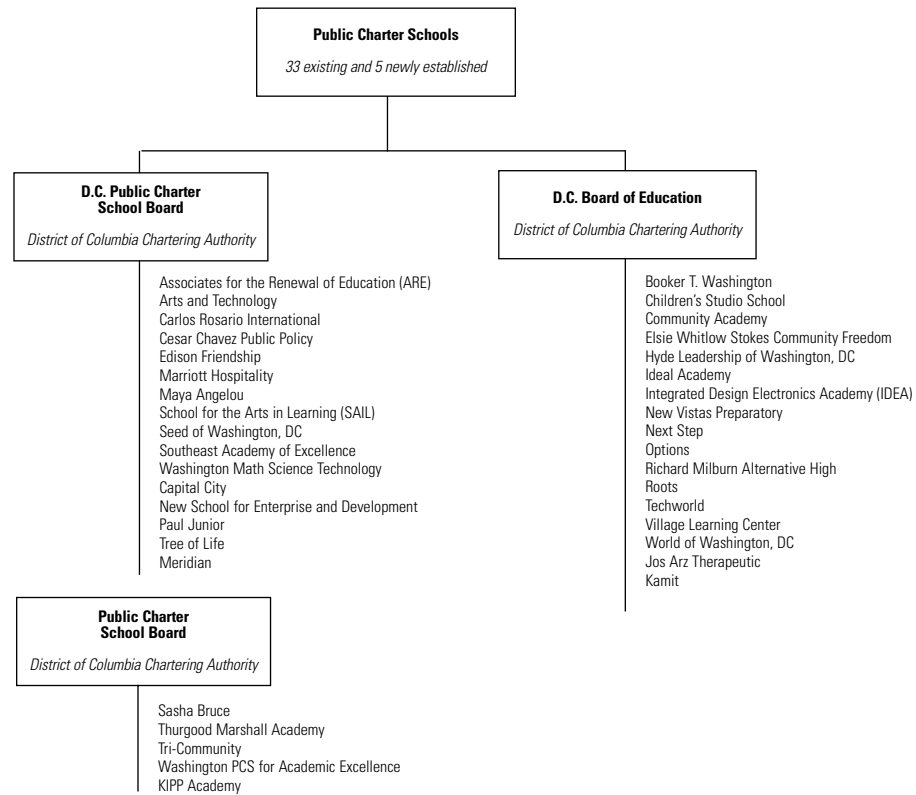
- Provide a public school system in which all District parents and students can select the schools they would like to attend.
- Provide students with exposure to career pathways and focus on particular areas of study to further enhance students' academic experience.
- Bring innovation in teaching and learning through the establishment of schools with the flexibility to develop customized approaches to enhance youth development and improve students' academic experience.
- Initiate incentives for D.C. Public Schools to reform by introducing competition in the public school system.
- Provide examples of successful instructional practices and effective curricula to be implemented in D.C. Public Schools and public charter schools in the future.

FY 2002 Initiatives

- Monitor the operations of each public charter school to ensure it conforms with the requirements of its charter.

Figure GC0-1

D.C. Public Charter Schools



- Ensure that each public charter school complies with relevant District and federal laws and provisions of the charter granted to such school.
- Monitor the progress of each charter school in meeting academic achievement expectations specified in each charter granted.

Agency Background

In 1996, the U.S. Congress and the District of Columbia City Council passed legislation to establish public charter schools in the District of Columbia. The legislation established a program structure for charter schools that includes two chartering authorities (the Board of Education and the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board) and a separate Board of Trustees for each charter school.

Programs

Each charter school is an autonomous, nonsectarian institution that cannot charge tuition to students who are District residents or impose discriminatory admissions policies or tests. As autonomous public education institutions and within authorized limitations, charter schools exercise control over their education programs, instruction methods, expenditures, administration, personnel, contracts for goods and services, leases, and purchases of school facilities. Some charter schools focus on a particular area of concentration to help establish career pathways for students and to address their varied educational needs, physical and/or emotional disabilities, and limited English-language proficiency. Figure GC0-1 displays the organization of the D.C. Public Charter Schools.

Although they function autonomously, each charter school's Board of Trustees is required to

Table GC0-1

FY 2002 Proposed Operating Budget, by Comptroller Source Group

(dollars in thousands)

Public Charter Schools

	Actual FY 2000	Approved FY 2001	Proposed FY 2002	Change from FY 2001
Subsidies and Transfers	49,936	105,000	142,257	37,257
<i>Subtotal Nonpersonal Services (NPS)</i>	<i>49,936</i>	<i>105,000</i>	<i>142,257</i>	<i>37,257</i>
Total Proposed Operating Budget	49,936	105,000	142,257	37,257

report the charter school's progress to one of two chartering authorities—the District of Columbia Board of Education or the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board. Each charter school's Board of Trustees governs the school according to its charter and the provisions of current law, and helps secure funding, technical assistance, and other instructional and financial support. The chartering authorities grant charters to qualified schools, monitor each charter school's operations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and the provisions of its charter, and revoke charters in cases of poor performance and mismanagement.

Funding Summary

The budget for charter schools comes from local funds and is primarily derived according to the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) (table GC0-2). In accordance with the D.C. School Reform Act of 1995, and the D.C. Act 12-494, the UPSFF determines the operating funds for D.C. Public Schools and charter schools based on student enrollments and the special services students require, including special education, English as a Second Language, or bilingual education courses. The UPSFF provides a foundation, or basic, level of funding for each student. A series of add-on weights, or supplemental funds, are then applied to the foundation level to adjust the funding for each student based on grade-level, special education classification, English language proficiency, and attendance at a residential, boarding, or summer school. The FY 2002 foundation funding is \$5,907 per student, or 3.13 percent above the

FY 2001 foundation level of funding of \$5,728 per student. The foundation funding for FY 2002 was applied to the FY 2002 projected enrollment. The latter is made up of the official enrollment count taken in October of FY 2001, the projected enrollment for the expansion of existing charter schools, and the beginning enrollment for newly established charter schools scheduled to open in FY 2002.

PCS does not receive capital funds. Instead, a facilities allowance is applied to each student according to whether the student attends a regular day school or a residential school. The facilities allowance for charter schools is calculated pursuant to Section 109 of D.C. Code 31-2908, Facilities Allowance for Public Charter Schools. This per-pupil dollar amount helps schools subsidize facilities costs such as rent and utilities. The FY 2002 facilities allowance was calculated by averaging the FY 2001 projected DCPS capital improvement funds per pupil with the PCS facilities allowances from FY 1999, 2000, and 2001. The charter schools' FY 2002 budget includes a facilities allowance of \$1,422 per nonresidential student, a decrease of 4 percent, or \$60, from the FY 2001 facilities allowance of \$1,482 per student.

The total FY 2002 proposed budget for PCS is divided into two major allocations, one for each chartering authority. These allocations consist of the individual schools' allocations, a 5 percent set-aside for each school, and funds for the chartering authority (if applicable).

The total FY 2002 allocation for charter schools under the authority of the Board of Education is \$52,086,081, or 37 percent, of the

Table GC0-2

FY 2002 Per Pupil Funding Analysis (D.C. Act 12-494)**D.C. Public Charter Schools**

Foundation level per pupil:	\$5,907
Nonresidential Facilities Allotment:	\$1,422
Residential Facilities Allotment:	\$3,839

Grade Level	Weighting	Old Schools Enrollment	New Schools Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Per Pupil Allocation	Total Dollars
Pre-School	1.16	153	72	225	\$6,852	\$1,541,802
Pre-Kindergarten	1.16	362	0	362	\$6,852	\$2,480,588
Grades K - 5	1.05	4,414	930	5,344	\$6,203	\$33,146,965
Ungraded ES	1.05	165	0	165	\$6,203	\$1,023,437
Grades 6 - 8	1.00	2,280	90	2,370	\$5,907	\$14,000,269
Ungraded MS/JHS	1.00	9	0	9	\$5,907	\$53,166
Grades 9 - 12	1.30	4,203	80	4,283	\$7,679	\$33,428,743
Ungraded SHS	1.30	72	0	72	\$7,679	\$552,922
Alternative	1.30	0	0	0	\$7,679	\$0
Adult	0.75	770	0	770	\$4,430	\$3,411,458
Total		12,428	1,172	13,600		\$89,101,786

Add-on Weightings for NONRESIDENTIAL Students

Special Needs Education

Level 1	0.22	221	62	283	\$1,300	\$367,788
Level 2	0.80	395	75	470	\$4,726	\$2,221,140
Level 3	1.73	415	46	461	\$10,220	\$4,711,238
Level 4	3.20	177	1	178	\$18,903	\$3,364,790
LEP / NEP	0.40	543	67	610	\$2,363	\$1,441,378
Total		1,751	251	2,002		\$12,106,334

Add-on Weightings for RESIDENTIAL Students

Special Needs Education

Residential	Level 1	0.374	2	0	2	\$2,209	\$4,419
Residential	Level 2	1.360	9	0	9	\$8,034	\$72,305
Residential	Level 3	2.941	9	0	9	\$17,373	\$156,360
Residential	Level 4	2.924	6	0	6	\$17,273	\$103,637
Residential	Level 5	9.40	90	0	90	\$55,528	\$4,997,564
LEP / NEP		0.68	0	0	0	\$4,017	\$0
Residential		1.70	256	0	256	\$10,042	\$2,570,851
Total			372	0	372		\$7,905,137

Summer School	0.17	5,383	550	5,933	\$1,004	\$5,958,148
Nonresidential Facilities Allotment		12,172	1,172	13,344	\$1,422	\$18,971,699
Residential Facilities Allotment		256	0	266	\$3,839	\$982,707
Total Allocation for ALL PCS						\$135,025,810
Total 5 Percent Set-Aside for ALL PCS						\$6,751,291
Total Allocation for D.C. Public Charter School Board						\$480,000
Total PCS Budget						\$142,257,101

Table GC0-3

FY 2002 Proposed Operating Budget, by Revenue Type

(dollars in thousands)

D.C. Public Charter Schools

	Actual FY 1998	Actual FY 1999	Actual FY 2000	Approved FY 2001	Proposed FY 2002
Local	3,195	11,113	46,480	105,000	142,257
Federal	0	14,126	0	0	0
Other	0	0	3,455	0	0
Gross Funds	3,195	25,239	49,935	105,000	142,257

total FY 2002 proposed operating budget. The allocation represents funding for a projected enrollment of 4,288 students in 17 existing charter schools (\$49,605,791) and a 5 percent set-aside (\$2,480,290) to fund school costs if actual enrollment exceeds the FY 2002 projections. The projected enrollment is 32 percent of the total projected student enrollment for all charter schools under both chartering authorities. Of the students projected to enroll in charter schools under the Board of Education, 560 students (13%) are special education students; 139 (3%) are limited or non-English proficient students; and 3,117 (73%) will participate in a summer school program. Funding to support the administrative functions of the Board of Education chartering authority are included in the budget for D.C. Public Schools, since the Board of Education primarily resides within and serves that agency.

The total FY 2002 allocation for charter schools under the authority of the D.C. Public Charter School Board is \$90,171,020, or 63 percent of the total FY 2002 proposed operating budget.

The allocation represents funding for a projected enrollment of 8,140 students in 16 existing charter schools (\$74,711,220), 1,172 students in five newly established charter schools (\$10,708,799), a 5 percent set-aside (\$4,271,001) to fund school costs if actual enrollment exceeds the FY 2002 enrollment projections, and \$480,000 to support the administrative functions of the D.C. Public Charter School Board.

In sum, 9,312 students are projected to enroll in existing or new schools under the D.C. Public Charter School Board. The projected enrollment is 68 percent of the total projected student enrollment for all charter schools under both chartering authorities. Of the total number of students projected to enroll in charter schools under the D.C. Public Charter School Board, 922 students (10%) are special education students; 471 (5%) are limited or non-English proficient students; and 2,816 (30%) will participate in a summer school program. Refer to the FY 2002 Operating Appendices (bound separately) for details.